

BRIDGES

FASHION:

Say goodbye to ugly sweaters! How to look festive and stylish **P. 15**

ON THE SCENE:

Our best shots from The Huron Carole — A Musical **P. 16**

WINE WORLD:

A bubbly for the holidays, but is it worth the price? **P. 19**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

A STARPHOENIX COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

NEW HOPE FOR NEW MOMS

BABY STEPS BUILDS HOUSES
AND REBUILDS LIVES **P. 4**

COLLEEN
MAH

FRED

IN THE CITY

DECEMBER 16, 2014 - 3:57 P.M.

No kidding around



Audition Gary introduces Border Terrier to Ryan Sweet Pea, the cypress and after school from the Alice Turner Public Library read stories about goats during the Crestone Festival. Storytime at the Affinity Learning Center at the Smeadon Farm Park and Joe Hilda read to the children.

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ON THE COVER PG. 4



Willy and Colleen Abbott in the parlor at the Stacy Shogren-Sorenson's house for new readers that they funded for EG&G. BRIDGES PHOTO BY MICHELLE BERG

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Two Bridges Bridges is out a day only this week. Think of it as an early Christmas gift. Distribution will be back to the regular schedule next week.

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SHARP EATS PG. 18



The Sharp Eats columnist, Stephanie McKay, is a food writer. The photo is the perfect dish with which to delight your houseguests during the Christmas season. PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE BERG

BRIDGES COVER PHOTO BY MICHELLE BERG

Bridges is published by The Sharp Eats — a division of Pizzomoda/Network Inc. — at 204 Fifth Avenue North, Bentonville, Ark., 72716.

Heather Pizzomoda, editor-in-chief, Jean Sharp is associate editor.

For advertising inquiries contact: 657-6340; editorial: 657-6327; home delivery: 657-6320. Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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ON THE COVER

Nothing is stronger than a mother's love.

— Colleen Mah

SASKATOON'S PHILANTHROPISTS

How a village raises a child



Colleen and Wiley Mah have donated some money and houses to JAGOP, a non-profit outreach program that helps help youth off the street and out of the sex trade. **PHOTO BY MICHELLE REED**

By Evan Radford

After the results of her ultrasound all Natalie could do was cry and tremble.

She was pregnant, addicted to drugs and homeless. Leaving the Westside Community Clinic, she had nowhere to go. She got as far as the front steps. "I felt really lost," she said.

She was 38 years old, she had been using drugs since she was 18. To survive each day, she stole — especially from police.

"I was a shoplifter. I think I had too much lust for men in a crack work the streets. But I did hang out with a lot of guys that did, because they had the drugs," she said. "I would keep them safe. I would write down licence plate

numbers. I'm not proud to say it, but I would rip-off men, too."

Natalie is not her real name, the 33-year-old wants to change it to protect herself and her family she doesn't want people from her old life to keep taking advantage of her.

As she sat on the steps of the health clinic, cold and alone, a social worker named Katherine Roberts in-

vented her into her office. That was the first time Natalie heard of a program called Baby Steps.

"Nothing is stronger than a mother's love," says philanthropist Colleen Mah. "Mothers will move mountains, but you have to give them a lot

of a chance." To say she has an affinity for the Baby Steps program would be an understatement.

She and her husband, Wiley have contributed time, money and happen to Baby Steps and two other programs. The goal is to get young mothers and their children who take root on the streets.

Continued on Page 6

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Children are the most vulnerable, with no ability to vote or change things themselves. Somebody needs to take the steps to take care of them. — Wally Mah



A message in the entrance at Baby Steps in Skowhegan: a house that is part of ESAD's non-profit outreach program. (Photograph by Andrew BORG)

The three housing programs are part of ESAD's, also called The Skowhegan Downtown Youth Center Inc. It aims to keep at-risk youth off the street. That means helping them recover from homelessness, addiction, gang involvement and sex trade work. Most of ESAD's clients have lived through a combination of these lifestyles.

Colleen and Wally both believe in giving back to their community. It's a value that's been instilled in them by their parents. They've donated more than \$1 million to ESAD. They've built several houses for the program, including the Baby Steps house. The success of their company allows the two to give back to others.

Wally is the president and founder of North Ridge Development Corporation, a 30-year-

old construction and land development company. Colleen is a broker with North Ridge.

Colleen believes everyone in the community needs to support youth and help them toward stable lives. That's why she and Wally are so involved in Baby Steps.

The program provides a support system and housing for parenting at-risk mothers. They live in the same unit as their children. If not for the program, social services would send their children to birth. Mothers like Natalie are trying to leave lives of homelessness, addiction and sex work.

Living in the white, split-level Baby Steps house allows the moms to learn parenting

skills. They have access to support and guidance around the clock from staff at the house. A social worker dedicated to the Baby Steps house ensures the moms complete their required recovery steps to regain full custody of their children, so they can live with their kids independently. There's room for two mothers and eight children. ESAD makes other houses available in the city if spots are full.

"A lot of these women need to learn proper parenting skills," said Colleen. "They're never had role models in their lives. Who do you learn from? Your mom and your dad. Those women need those role models to show them how to be moms."

"And you know what? Once they continue through the program, they pass that on to

other women, to other new mothers."

Colleen and Wally also built the split-level house next door, Mike's House. When a mom graduates from Baby Steps, she lives there with her child full time and independently. She can still get help from staff next door.

Every house the couple built for ESAD was assessed by homeowners in its respective area. "With the Baby Steps house, their big goal concern was increased traffic, and I just shake my head at that," said Wally.

"It's a major concern," Colleen said. "What he means is homeowners were worried that clients would start hanging drugs and prostitution into their area."

It baffled the couple that homeowners would assume these moms weren't trying to get away from their dangerous lifestyles.



Because of EGADZ letting me have my child in my life, it's totally changed me. They've given me a lot back. I'm so grateful that people cared about me. They just opened their arms. They knew I had nowhere to go — Natalie



Don McKie, housing and outreach director for EGADZ, was the one who solicited the McIs' support and ensured the house is maintained. Photos by Dore Whelan

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Natalie cries when she thinks about how bad things were.

"Before I had my daughters, I had no hope. I didn't have any supports. I had people that used me, that abused me. I felt like 'I am worth nothing,' she said through her tears. "If it wasn't for my daughters I don't think I'd be here talking to you right now."

She gave birth to her daughter ten years ago. When she found out she was pregnant, she sobbed up. As soon as she looked in my eyes, I knew something was gonna be different."

Natalie navigated her way through

Baby Steps and the McIs' House program. Along the way, she found part-time work at a daycare. She's completed level 1 of the Early Childhood Education program through Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Now, she's living in a two-bedroom house. It is the third leg in the EGADZ program before she lives completely independent.

"Because of EGADZ, letting me have my child in my life, it's totally changed me," Natalie said. "They've given me a lot back. I'm so grateful that people cared about me. They just opened their arms. They knew I had nowhere to go."

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The housing hero of the program is Don McKie. He has played a big role in helping Natalie and other women like her. He's the housing and outreach director for EGADZ.

"You can give a person a fish and they'll eat it for a day. Or you can teach a person to fish and they can feed themselves." He routinely breaks that phrase. He seems to live it as a philosophy.

McKie ensures all EGADZ houses are well-maintained, right down to the weather stripping on the front doors.

Patient and perceptive, he knows when to inject humor into conversations that lend toward painful tension and emotion. His deep housing voice has the power to either shock or console.

McKie was the one who solicited the McIs' support. He brought them to EGADZ's old apartments, where rent kept going up and the kids had no place to play in.

"These women don't have that support system or they don't have it close by. That's why it's so important to have that transitional home, to help them through it. Cause you don't get fixed just like that," Colleen

said as she snapped her fingers.

McKie was instrumental in securing the provincial government's support for Baby Steps, especially the Ministry of Social Services. "People listen to him. He'll tell them if something's not working," said Wally. "He calls a spade a spade." Colleen conformed.

McKie often tells stories in the program to ease their worries, that they turned their lives around because they wanted to. He's also been like He's quick to manage EGADZ's success to Wally and Colleen, to their daughters, their time and the houses they've built.

EVENTS

What you need to know to plan your week.
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Before



After



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MUSIC

Fri., Dec. 26

999 Day
Buds on Broadway,
817 Broadway Ave.

**Piano Friday! Martin
Jernomy**
Piano Series: The Barrel-
man
The Basement,
204 Fourth Ave. N.

**Roaring Day Bash: Death to
The Police: a Police tribute**
Amigos Cantina,
632 10th St. E

**Piano Friday! Roaring Day
Boogie w/ Little Criminals
and Sax Preacher**
Vampiro Tavern,
601 Broadway Ave.

**Piano Jazz & The Hip Hop
Hippies w/ The Gaf**
Capitol Music Club,
354 First Ave. N.

**10th Annual Boogie Day
Dance Party! McMarley**
Spadine Footcove,
606 Spadine Cres. E.

Neil Place
Star's Place,
106-10 Ruth St. E.

Sat., Dec. 27

**Piano Sundays: Maurice
Drouin and Neil Currie**
a Reeling
Jazz Theater Series: Sonen
Nissen/Jan Simola Quartet
The Basement,
204 Fourth Ave. N.

Mardi-Hill Trio
McNally Robinson,
3130 Eighth St. E.

Bowl Dive w/
Amigos Cantina,
632 10th St. E.

**Fourth annual Holiday
Bash: Angels and Gears**
w/ Wonders and The Gator



Mexican Neil Currie will be performing at The Basement for Piano Sundays on Dec. 27. *Illustration*

reunites an 80's Weather Boy
Capitol Music Club,
354 First Ave. N.

**Dance Event: Moonbaker,
Shinkov, Muscovitz, Mehta
and Souser**
Vampiro Tavern,
601 Broadway Ave.

Dargames: Bluebirds
Pizzys Pub and Grill,
1433 14th Ave. N.

Neil Place
Star's Place,
106-10 Ruth St. E.

Sun., Dec. 28

Acoustic Nights: Nigel Mac

Bowl
Buds on Broadway,
817 Broadway Ave.

Tues., Dec. 30

Charger
Buds on Broadway/
817 Broadway Ave.

ART

Mendel Art Gallery
Until Jan. 4 at 1900 Spadine
Cres. E. Modern Visions: The
50th anniversary exhibition,
Modern Visions presents
about 150 works from the
permanent collection. The
Members' Sale in the Gallery

Shop ends Dec. 31, with
selected works up to 50
per cent off. LUGO DOLLS,
culminating the Mendel's
50th anniversary celebra-
tions, Jan. 10, 8 pm to 2 a.m.
Tickets starting Dec. 29 and
information at sluggo.ca.

Pacific Star Gallery
Until Dec. 28 at 1330 Eighth
St. E. Behind These Eyes by
gallery artists and poets

**Humboldt and District
Museum and Gallery**
Until Dec. 31 at 601 Main
St. In Humboldt: A look
at the history of the
Humboldt area through
photographs and paintings

Art in the Centre
Through December at
Perkins Centre, 110 Gran-
per Cres. Art to Inspire

Eye Gallery
Until Jan. 2 at 117-132 Col-
lege Dr. Ink Slab: Printmaking

**The Gallery at Art Place-
ment**
Until Jan. 8 at 228 Third Ave.
S. On the Road to Imme-
table: Landscape paintings
by Rebecca Perkins

Funky Petals
Until Jan. 31 at 212 Third Ave.
S. A collection of framed
photographs and works by
Sharon Gaskin

EVENTS

Canadian Light Source (CLS)

Public Tours

Mondays, 1:30 p.m., at the Canadian Light Source, 44 Innovation Blvd. The synchrotron research facility is open for the public. Registration is required. Call 306-655-3644, email outreach@lightsources.ca or visit lightsources.ca/education/public_tours.php.

Prenatal Yoga

Mondays, 8 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Pregnancy and Parenting: Health Centre, 2681 Third Ave. S. Taught by a doula and certified yoga teacher. Informative and safe for any stage pregnancy. Call 306-261-9643 or email nagapriya@yahoo.com. No class on stat holidays.

Heygus

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Grace-Wesley United Anglican Church. Hosted by Debbie Heuts Learning Community, a group of families inspired by Waldorf philosophies. Programming is aimed at children ages two to five, but all ages are welcome.

Praveen Story Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at McNally Robinson, 3130 Uptown St. E. For children ages three to five. In the Circle of Trees. Call 306-960-1477.

My Smart Hands SeedCourse: Baby and Toddler Sign Language

Starting Jan. 13 and 15. Baby sign language provides the skills to communicate with your pre-verbal baby, accelerates verbal development and strengthens cognitive skills. Registration is now open. For information contact Tanya Myrland-Wells RSW, RSW, Certified Baby Sign Instructor at tanyamw@mysmarthands.com.

Saskatoon Public Library Programs

Ongoing daily programs for children and families. Find the calendar at saskatoonlibrary.ca/node/1010.

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Major Caravan from the Alice Simon Public Library holds a book about goats to children during the Christmas Festival. (C) Caravan at the Alice Simon Public Library. Photo by Michelle L. Biles.

play games, and have fun using LittleBits. Visit bricks4kids.com or call 306-579-2349.

* SPECIAL EVENTS

Saskatoon Farmers' Market

Open year-round. Wednesday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., farmers are in attendance. Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday during winter hours. Food service and specialty shops are open. Information at saskatoonfarmersmarket.com. Contact 306-386-6262, info@bricks4kids.net.

Mayfair Carpet Bowling

Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m., at Mayfair United Church. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. For

information call 306-655-2351.

SPCC Dances

Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the basement of Grace-Wesley United Church, 505 10th St. E. Offering a variety of locally produced food, clothing and accessories from India, pet products, baking and baby clothes. New vendors welcome. Call 306-666-2940 or email gerald1@hotmail.com.

Boring Day Old Time Dance

Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Hall. Presented by The Northern Lights Business and Old Time Music Society and Saskatchewan Public Connections. Featuring Canadian Grand Masters Fiddlers Tristen Danacher and Raymond Koon. Dancing and a late lunch-admission at the door. Information at 306-230-2840.

Off-Broadway Farmers' Market, International Bazaar, and Bazaar

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the basement of Grace-Wesley United Church, 505 10th St. E. Offering a variety of locally produced food, clothing and accessories from India, pet products, baking and baby clothes. New vendors welcome. Call 306-666-2940 or email gerald1@hotmail.com.

Farmers' Market Closed

Until Jan. 5. Regular hours resume Jan. 2.

W&H's In the Enchanted Forest

Holiday Lights Tour. Until Jan. 10, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo. Lights walk Jan. 5, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The drive-through Christ-

mas display celebrates its 16th anniversary. Tickets at the gate, and car passes at Sawdust or Shoppers' Dreamer. Funds raised support the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and the Saskatoon Hospital Foundation.

New Hope Dog Rescue Book Sale

Jan. 18-19 at Market Mall. Donated books will be collected until the sale begins. To donate, drop-off books at MINT Fashion Co. or contact 306-715-2930 or staylark@nec-sk.com for the north end, parasa@nec-sk.com for the south end, or 306-393-3327 for Quabec Ave. All proceeds will help New Hope Dog Rescue.

David Williams is a local community journalist offered by The Globe and Mail. He writes about the people, places and events that make up the city of Saskatoon. He can be reached at david.williams@the GlobeandMail.com.

READ MY BOOK

LOCAL AUTHORS: Writers tell us what makes their book worth reading

#ERNEST SOERNHART

Christmas Dinner To Go

Christmas dinner creates high as emotions in our society. As we get closer to Christmas people begin to think about busy shopping days, decorations, gifts, special food or meeting with friends and relatives.

Unfortunately not everyone is able to enjoy Christmas in the same degree. Some families have experienced difficult times and they do not have the financial resources to spend a lot of money during the Christmas season. I wanted to show this kind of a situation. That's why I wrote *Christmas Dinner To Go*.

The family in my story cannot really enjoy doing all the Christmas things they would like to do. In *Christmas Dinner To Go*, Mr and Mrs Wilson and their children Nancy and Richard

have met with unfortunate circumstances. Mrs Wilson had been ill for a long time and the family spent a lot of their savings for medical care. Mr Wilson worked as a bus driver for the Roanoke Transit Agency but the company went bankrupt so he became unemployed. Like the Wilsons many families experience similar things in their day-to-day lives. We need to be thankful at these situations and be helped.

The Wilson family decided they would spend a quiet Christmas Eve at home and go to their church for a community gathering and dinner on Christmas Day. The family agreed that the one special thing they all liked and would enjoy for Christmas was peace. That's why Nancy and Richard went out as a money Christmas Eve to

buy some supplies at Mr Peterson's store as Mrs Wilson could walk yet.

On the way home the children came upon a bad accident. A limousine had crashed into a tree, the driver was slumped over the wheel, and a passenger inside the car was calling to them. Richard ran back to Mr Peterson's store to get help. An ambulance arrived to take the injured people to the hospital. The policeman asked the children some questions. Then Nancy and Richard ran home to tell their parents of their adventure.

On Christmas Day Mr Wilson, the injured passenger paid a surprise visit to the Wilsons and brought Christmas to the family. The Wilson family decided it was the best Christmas they ever had.



Ernest Soernhart

Christmas Dinner To Go is printed by Trafford Publishing. The book is available in Regain at Coles and Chapters. It's available by special order through most Saskatchewan book stores and online at www.trafford.com.



Also available are Soernhart's previous books *The Great Alphabet Rounder Book* and *The Magic Christmas Train*. Ernest Soernhart is a retired teacher who lives in Regina.



**Next week in
BRIDGES**
**Amputee
Janz Stein got a
second chance to
live an active life**

Authentic Amish Cooking



authentic amish & catholic recipes

Monkey Bread

4 cups Refrigerated Biscuits 1/2 C Sugar

1 T Cinnamon

Syrup

1/2 C Walnuts

1/2 C Greased Paper

1/2 L Cinnamon

1/2 C Brown Sugar packed



Get biscuits into quarters. Coat one 1/2 C. sugar, 1 T cinnamon and put into a ziploc bag. Shake biscuit quarters and sugar mixture together until coated well. Drop into a bowl or angel food cake pan. Coat one syrup ingredients and bring to a boil. Pour over biscuits. Bake at 350° for 20 to 30 minutes.

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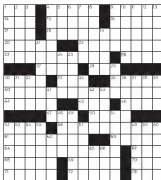
NEW YORK TIMES Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

- 1 Use a new record
- 4 Res. in Old Glory
- 6 First away
- 9 Patterned after
- 10 Come forward
- 16 "Buddy-buddy" v.p.
- 17 RMTN acronym
- 18
- 19 With 64 Across words of certainty, or letters for 23, 45 and 56-58 across
- 20 At attention
- 22 One headed for the lion's head only
- 23 "Silent" verb
- 26 Grief to some
- 27 Graft (synonym)
- 28 General reference
- 30 Gaudy in which "dual" is a possible clue
- 32 Little pain is the you know what?
- 33 In Chicago's culture
- 40 Use it all
- 41 When in Venice
- 42 Men's robe of sin
- 43 Make a bet
- 44 Bit of dress
- 47 "It's away"

DOWN

- 1 Needle stick
- 2 Last Diderot
- 3 Car with machine
- 4 Gold suits in a drink
- 5 "Gee" "Doo"
- 6 1 night go away for the barman
- 7 Not an R/R
- 8 Something a man-of-war picks up
- 9 Baffle...
- 10 To yield for
- 11 Redwood with apocryphic springs
- 12 Don't in a map
- 13 Not hard to wrap
- 14 It was a tropical
- 15 One in a class



AMERICAN CROSSWORD PUZZLES

DOWN

- 1 Needle stick
- 2 Last Diderot
- 3 Car with machine
- 4 Gold suits in a drink
- 5 "Gee" "Doo"
- 6 1 night go away for the barman
- 7 Not an R/R
- 8 Something a man-of-war picks up
- 9 Baffle...
- 10 To yield for
- 11 Redwood with apocryphic springs
- 12 Don't in a map
- 13 Not hard to wrap
- 14 It was a tropical
- 15 One in a class

- 21 Self-proclaimed leader of the 1930s
- 24 ...dirt
- 25 Precious and others
- 26 The wheel
- 27 Discharge in a box
- 31 ...ed
- 32 American model
- 34 R/R comparison v.p.
- 37 Factor in club selection
- 38 Car on a hill
- 39 Health ... Caps
- 40 "Sisters of Silence"
- 41 Lower one's A.P.S. partner
- 43 "Heads ... tails ..."

- 42 Dilemma
- 43 ...dignity (page 10)
- 44 Use a "before" versus "after" photo to test...
- 45 Competing step
- 46 Car's edit
- 47 "Family Test" results
- 48 ...ing
- 49 Fringe of "the"
- 50 Long forward
- 51 Record store section
- 52 Interference
- 53 Not a good idea
- 54 "Heads ... tails ..."

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Level: Gold

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).



Solution to the crossword puzzle and the Sudoku can be found on Page 10

FASHION

What are you wearing on New Year's Eve?
Send us a picture at bridges@thestarphoenix.com

#CLOTHES FOR CHRISTMAS

The Kelly family is festively fashionable

By Ashley Martin

Lesley Kelly and her almost three-year-old son, Ken, enjoy shoes, some style, team. They each like to have fun with their clothes, and they like to be comfortable.

Sometimes they even dress alike. Once, Ken's letterman with a dark black-and-white plaid shirt and red pants for her son Lesley wondered why the outfit looked so familiar. When she got home, a look into her own closet answered the question.

"I had the same outfit. Isn't it bad when you dress the same as your (then-)one-year-old son?" she said.

But while Lesley loves jewelry — accessories are "accessible, accessible" is a motto for her — Jennings appears to be more no-nilly. Before posing for photos on a recent Saturday morning, he nipped off his red bow tie and that was that.

Donning a toddler's "interesting," said Lesley, who is due in April with her second child.

"There's a lot of affinity involved and I think that he does really really well when he gets to choose," she said.

Jennings isn't mature. "He has to get dressed at the last getting his hair brushed and his teeth brushed and it's not too bad."

And luckily for her, his is a pretty clean-cut — no sticky hands to worry about. But he's busy like any child, so Lesley plans ahead to keep on top of things.

"I see out stuff in the night, so that helps me lay organized. I normally get dressed before he does," she said. Anything that can whip on in two minutes or less is a bonus.

Though she works in an office, she's grateful she doesn't have to wear suits.

"We do have a set standard of what is expected of us to wear 'man business appropriate attire,'" she said. "I pick clothes that are reflective of me and what I do every day."

For her, that means having fun with her wardrobe. "I like to experiment with textures and shapes and colors," said Jennings, who's down to his pants, where colorful clothes right now. Every day if I'm not having fun then I have to switch it up. But it must also be functional.

"It has to work with a toddler. And we also have to do it with a walk for the city for work and for fun. Why not?"

Then Christmas Day is really busy. They head out to their farm near Watson, where activities generally include tobogganing and ice fishing.

"There's a lot of shuffling and excitement," she said.



Mother ...

1. GLASSES: Vera Optical
2. NECKLACE: Target, H&M and Ray
3. WEIR: Target. "My favorite piece in my life was, especially around Christmas, because I could be wearing just a regular shirt or T-shirt and it looks like a shirt, it just seems to pull it all together and I like to incorporate nature, so I think it works."
4. SHIRT: "All my clothes, they seem to still fit or work (when pregnant) — the fuzzy long shirts and leggings, so that's been a boon a huge adjustment."
5. BRACELET: J Crew
6. PANTS: Motherhood Maternity
7. PLATE: Ray from Illinois the belt

... and son

RED BOW TIE: Old Navy. (Not shown because Jennings decided not to wear it after all.)

1. SUSPENDERS: The Children's Place. "For the bow tie and suspenders, there was chocolate involved."
2. SHIRT: H&M. "It's got to pick his shirts."
3. PANTS: H&M
4. SHOES: Old Navy

ON THE SCENE

THE HURON CAROLE — A MUSICAL

The first Huron Carole concert was performed in 1987. Founder Tom Jackson's philanthropic project is now in its 28th year and has raised over \$200 million for food banks, family agencies and disaster relief. The Huron Carole — A Musical is performed across Canada every holiday season.

The Seabrook Food Bank and Learning Centre was the beneficiary from ticket sales at the Dec 11 concert at TCU Place.

The benefit concert is Jackson's national call to climate hunter during the holidays by putting food banks in the spotlight. He and other Gens food artists create awareness through The Huron Carole's heartiest song.

1. Todd Melberg, Irene Melberg and Ira Houston

2. Karel and Joop Brachfeld

3. Cheryl and Nath Wadler

4. Lee Swanson, Molede Smith, Janet Lynsien and Lee Swanson

5. Maureen Walker and Sharon Uhl

6. Lauren and Richard Jardine

7. Thelma and Cathy-Coy

8. Gary Teyl and Lloyd Simko

9. (Back row) Rick Chertman, Grah Kasper, (front row) Maie Kasper, Darla Chertman, Joanne Kasper and Ian Kasper



BRIDGES PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BERG

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Colouring contest

Each week, Stephanie McKay creates a timely illustration meant to please kids of all ages.

Children can colour the page, have a picture taken with the finished product and email it to birdsie@khusafphoto.com. One winner will be chosen each week.

Please send entries by Monday at 9 a.m.

Merry Christmas



LAST week's contest winner is Little Fish. Thanks to everyone who submitted entries!



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SHAR EATS

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SASKATCHEWAN FOOD SCENE

Food writers share their top Christmas recipes

By Jenn Sharp

Preparing a holiday feast is one thing, but what to do with all the leftover turkey can be a challenge.

G2 Kite, *True's* Regina columnist for the *Leader-Post*, was kind enough to share one of her favourite recipes to use up that turkey and add more flair into your life.

You can't have turkey at every meal though. The StarPhoenix's food columnist, Renee Kohnen, shares her favourite brunch recipe, perfect to serve as a Christmas morning or to impress house guests that stay a few days. Bonus: it's easy to make!

TURKEY WITH SPICED FRUIT COMPOTE

"This is a wonderful winter dish, ripe with rich aromas and flavours of fruit and warm spices," says Kite. *Serves four to six.*

INGREDIENTS

- > 1/2 of a large red or white onion, sliced
- > 2 tbsp oil
- > 1/2 cup rum or whiskey
- > 1/2 cup apple cider
- > 1/2 cup dried cherries
- > 1/2 cup dried currants
- > 1/2 cup dried blueberries
- > 2 dried figs, stem removed and chopped
- > 1 cinnamon stick
- > 2 cloves fresh ginger left whole
- > 1 tbsp honey
- > 1 tsp cornstarch diluted with 1 tbsp water
- > 1 tsp butter
- > Salt, to taste

METHOD

1. In a saucepan, sauté the onion in the oil over medium heat.
2. Deglaze the pan with the rum, add the stock, dried cherries, currants, blueberries, figs, cinnamon stick, ginger, and honey. Let simmer for at least 15 minutes, until slightly thickened.
3. Stir together the cornstarch and

water and add it to the compote. Stir until the mixture becomes syrupy and clear.
4. Serve warm with leftover turkey and rice.

BACON & EGG BREAK-FAST TART

"It's hard to improve on the bacon and egg perfection, but this tart might have done it," says Kohnen on her blog www.mrsjulesbakes.com.

"The cornstarch and cream are the secret ingredients to deliciousness. I was kind of stressed at first how well they go with bacon, potatoes, egg and cheese. And puff pastry is the perfect base: the crisp edges are awesome for soaking up the bits of runny egg and you want to use a knife and fork, but if no one is looking, go ahead and use your hands."

"You'll have the urge to eat it fast because it's so darn good, but slow down, enjoy every bit of heaven in every bite."

Serves roughly four

INGREDIENTS:

- > 1 sheet of puff pastry, thawed (I use the stuff already rolled out in sheets. If you can't find it, just roll a piece of puff pastry flat, about 18 inches by 22 inches)
- > 1 egg, lightly beaten
- > 1 onion, minced
- > 8-10 pieces of cooked bacon
- > 12 thin slices of cooked potato
- > 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella (I used goat mozzarella)
- > salt and pepper to taste
- > 2-4 eggs, depending on how many people are eating, or at least one egg per person
- > Olive oil
- > Fresh chives

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. Thaw the puff pastry according to package directions. If you haven't prepped your onions, bacon and potato, you can do that while pastry is thawing.
3. Line a baking sheet with parchment,



The StarPhoenix's food columnist Renee Kohnen's Bacon & Egg Breakfast Tart is the perfect dish to serve guests on Christmas morning. PHOTO COURTESY TONY KOWALAK

and place the thawed pastry on top. Fold over edges of pastry towards, about half an inch, creating a little border around the pastry. Brush the edges with a bit of beaten egg. Lightly prick the centre of the pastry with a fork, about seven times, but don't prick the edges.
4. Bake the pastry for about 15 min-

utes, then top with the cornstarched onion, cooked bacon strips, cooked potato slices and cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

5. Crack as many eggs as you like onto the tart and put back in oven (You can crack each egg onto a small bowl first, that way you won't get any shells on your tart.)

6. Cook until pastry is golden and eggs are cooked to your liking: past the same whites are opaque, about 15-20 minutes.

7. Decide finished tart with olive oil and sprinkle with fresh chopped chives. Cut and serve immediately. bridges@thestarphoenix.com
[Twitter.com/jennsharp2](http://twitter.com/jennsharp2)

WINE WORLD

SASKATCHEWAN WINE SCENE

A bubbly for the holidays, but is it worth the price?

By James Romanow

Although it's more than possible to produce excellent sparkling wine for about the same cost as a regular bottle, champagne is priced as a luxury good. These days it starts at about \$40 and climbs fast from there.

Champagne is usually a blend of three grapes — chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. It's also made in two specially sub-categories, a blanc de blanc (or white of whites) made out of only chardonnay and a blanc de noir (white of blacks) made with a blend of the two pinot grapes. These days, winemakers often make it only from pinot noir to feed the current New World, French-led hype.

New World wants champagne that use the traditional recipe typically charge between \$15 and \$30 for bubbly. People who step beyond that grape mix will get it for a low bucks cheaper, usually.

I picked up a bottle of Blasted Church Black Ink last week named CB44. (The brand's quirk is quaternary names for their wines.) It was unusual in a couple of ways. Firstly they charged me \$40 for the printings, which I found somewhat annoying. I already think chain paper is overpriced, although I pay for it.

More interesting was their choice of closure. They sealed the bottle with a crown cap, that lid you know from beer bottles. That is probably

Hawthorn Church C&AG Sparkling Wine
\$12.99 *****

Next week: Champagne for people who don't like champagne. But if you REALLY don't like champagne, there's more wine in Monday's page and on Twitter @dibboun.

Crossword/Sudoku answers

R	A	W	H	O	I	S	T	W	A	S	T	C
A	L	A	O	C	C	U	R	R	I	D	I	O
M	E	X	T	H	E	R	E	S	N	O	T	W
E	R	E	C	T	I	N	I	G	R	A	N	T
N	O	R	A	E	P	H	R	O	N	E	S	S
			L	A	R	A	R	E	V			
T	H	A	T	I	M	P		I	S	L	E	S
N	O	N	P	R	E	S	C	R	I	P	T	I
T	I	T	H	E	S	E	W	P	F	S	O	
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D	U	E	L	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	I	O
O	K	E	A	H	O	M	A	T	E	M	P	O
W	A	Y	S	A	R	O	U	T	I	P	E	T
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Nuts About Nature

At Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Hi Kids! My name's Chip, and I live at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Visit my backyard with your family and friends and enjoy some time away from the city.



Dear Chip,
What's the Boozing Day Bird Count?
Shenan

Dear Shen:

Boozing Day is a game you humans invented for December 26, the day after Christmas. It's not sure why it's called Boozing Day, but I can tell you about the Boozing Day Bird Count. Before 1900 it was fashionable for women to wear hats that were decorated with bird feathers. Many people began to notice that so many birds were being hunted for their feathers that species were starting to disappear and some were even in danger of extinction. One man named Frank Chapman suggested a new holiday tradition - a "Grasshopper Bird Census" - that would count birds during the holidays rather than shoot them. The Boozing Day Bird Count was born! Volunteers and citizen scientists band together every year in the time to count the number of birds in their local areas. Here in Shenkonium you can take part by contacting the Shenkonium Nature Society.

Send your questions to me at the address below, then watch Gidget for the answers.

Your pal Chip

Follow Laura Adams-Bryant
@ Laura Adams-Bryant
December 1st to December 26th
November 27th to April 30th
Chapman Wildlife and Politics
Dec 1st to Apr 30th, 10pm to 5pm EST

Nature: www.nature.org
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GARDENING

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

A selection of (very) last minute gardening gifts

By Eri Svendsen

It's not too late, there's still time before Christmas to get your gardener a special — albeit last minute — gift or two. And even though we're in the midst of winter, many garden centres and specialty retailers are open. And, of course, there's the Internet that is open all day every day of the year.

I believe in tools for life. Whether a trowel or shovel, make sure that our selection is solid. Hand tools that last are typically one-piece and aluminum for maximum strength and durability.

Colour is often overlooked — but often of hand tools should stand out and so they should not. Larger tools like spades and hoes should have handles of solid oak (or similar hardwood), heavy gauge tubular steel or a solid steel shaft. If they come with a lifetime guarantee, even better. The only reason to replace most quality tools is because they were lost or your neighbour snatched one in his/her/its the black stock.

If your gardener has all the usual tools, think outside the box.

Shovel, hoe and spade head tools should be sharp. An axe file is the best tool for getting that job done and is a fairly inexpensive (and thoughtful) gift.

A folding spade (with a long, narrow, curved blade) is great for digging out large perennials in close quarters, without disturbing nearby plants. A Japanese hand hoe is great for weeding with the root of most perennial weeds, or a horn hand tool for finding long persistent or digging up deep-rooted weeds.

For only a couple of dollars, UV proof permanent garden markers are great labels that'll last.

I always appreciate a new pair of sturdy gardening gloves — not the pretty floral cloth kind, but soft felt or garden gloves for comfort and real-life protection. Or wrap up a good watering can, look for one that is balanced, a large enough volume to get the job done and easy to fill, clean,



A selection of gifts that will excite any Saskatchewan gardener. Photo by KATHLEEN DILL, SWND/ML

with the same watering can design since 2008. In a classic, yet expensive choice, Baragon is a tool for life.

This being winter and all, perhaps a gardening book or a subscription to a gardening magazine would be more appropriate. The books, look for local or Prairie authors: Steve Williams (Saskatoon) has authored and co-authored (with Hugh Stanner) several books among them, *Gardening Naturally: A Christmas Handbook for the Prairies*, *Best Ground-covers and Vines for the Prairies* and *Creating*

the Prairie Kioskcape.

Her latest recent book is a history of the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo. Other Prairie authors worth reading include Deane Baker (Alberta), Lynette Penner (Alberta, formerly of Saskatchewan), Lisa-Jane Hale (Alberta) and Karolita Leadenberger (Alberta) to name just a few.

If your gardener has a passion for hardy roses, hostas, perennial grasses, water gardening or some other species, group of plants or gardening technique, then there may be a book

that deals with their chosen topic in depth with a Prairie perspective. Gardening magazine choices include *The Gardener for the Prairies* (quarterly) or *The Prairie Garden Journal*, that year's theme is grasses and succulents.

If all else fails, there are always gift cards. These can be for local garden centres, specialty seed stores and firms and garden supply stores. It can also include Canadian online seed plant and garden supply retailers like Stokes, Journey's Seeds, Whitehouse

Perennials and many more. For an extensive list of online suppliers, see www.saskgardens.com.

These suggestions will work for other special gift giving occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries or just because.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (www.saskperennials.ca, eris@eris.com). Check out our bulletin board or newsletter for upcoming garden information events.

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